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Agenda item 25
United Nations Year of Dialogue among Civilizations

United Nations Year of Dialogue among Civilizations*

Report of the Secretary-General

I. Introduction

1. The General Assembly, by its resolution 53/22 of 4 November 1998, decided to proclaim 2001 as the United Nations Year of Dialogue among Civilizations and invited Governments, the United Nations system, including the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and other relevant international and non-governmental organizations to plan and implement appropriate cultural, educational and social programmes to promote the concept of dialogue among civilizations, including through organizing conferences and seminars and disseminating information and scholarly material on the subject, and to inform me of their activities. In its resolution 55/23 of 13 November 2000, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its fifty-sixth session a substantive report on the prospect of dialogue among civilizations and the activities pertaining to the United Nations Year of Dialogue among Civilizations.

2. The idea of a dialogue among civilizations has engendered wide interest at the level of academic institutions, non-governmental organizations and international institutions. UNESCO has been particularly instrumental in fostering this interest by holding conferences and seminars together with Governments, civil society and other United Nations organizations in many countries. These events have been held across the globe in such countries as Andorra, Austria, Canada, Costa Rica, Cuba, Egypt, Germany, Jordan, Latvia, Mali, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Switzerland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Dialogue among civilizations has also been selected as a strategic objective by UNESCO for its medium-term strategy covering the period 2002-2007, a reflection of the organization's commitment to this process.

3. My personal representative for the United Nations Year of Dialogue among Civilizations, Giandomenico Picco, has worked together with the Director-General of UNESCO and with a number of eminent persons who have accepted my invitation to provide a substantive contribution to this important dialogue. They have recently submitted to me the result of their collaborative work, a book entitled *Crossing the Divide: Dialogue among Civilizations* (see annex I for a list of contributors).

4. A number of Governments, including Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Germany, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Lithuania, Madagascar, Mongolia, Poland, Saudi Arabia, the Russian Federation, Tunisia and Venezuela, have transmitted to my Personal Representative a compilation of their ongoing activities pertaining to the dialogue in their respective countries.

* The present report was delayed to include more reports of permanent missions.

01-61762 (E) 051101

Other Governments have replied to a note verbale of 1 August 2001 requesting information about the activities they had undertaken or encouraged in response to the General Assembly resolutions. A list of the countries replying is annexed (see annex II).

5. Great interest has also been expressed by Governments and leading public figures around the world for a renewed effort at all levels of society to encourage a dialogue among civilizations in the years ahead. This is reflected in the fact that my Personal Representative and the meetings of the Group of Eminent Persons have received major support from the Governments of Austria, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland and Qatar. One Government, Switzerland, has contributed financially to the trust fund set up for the Year. Academic and non-governmental organizations have also provided generous logistical and financial support to my Personal Representative and to the work of the Group of Eminent Persons.

II. Report on activities

6. A number of Member States have launched a series of major events and activities in celebration and support of the International Year of Dialogue among Civilizations. The Government of Austria hosted the inaugural meeting of the Group of Eminent Persons on the Dialogue among Civilizations in December 2000 in Vienna. This was followed in August 2001 by the Salzburg dialogue among civilizations: a new paradigm of international relations, which was opened by the Secretary-General and which issued a document entitled "Salzburg reflections" (see A/56/419). The Dialogue will continue in the Vienna Christian-Islamic round table, planned for February 2002.

7. To celebrate the International Year of Dialogue among Civilizations, German federal ministries and representatives of civil society selected 90 projects to represent Germany's contribution. Those projects are being executed by a vast array of civil society organizations, including large institutes, schools and small non-governmental organizations. In the main, the projects seek to document, launch discussions and exchange opinions among all social groups, both within Germany and abroad. The German Institute of International Relations has also issued a special edition on different opinions on the role of culture as an instrument for conflict prevention. Germany will also be hosting the International UNESCO Conference on cultural policy as a global task, which will be held from 16 to 18 November 2001 in Berlin. The conference will focus on the global dimension of culture and include such topics as cultural diversity, conflicts and pluralism.

8. The Government of Japan sponsored the 2001 Global Youth Exchange Programme, in which 40 young people from around the world were invited to Japan to exchange views on issues from a global perspective. The meeting, which was held in March 2001, focused on the theme "dialogue among civilizations — from a century of conflict to a century of coexistence". The outcome of the discussions is contained in a "message for the twenty-first century from the global youth", which was submitted to the Rector of the United Nations University for delivery to the Secretary-General. Japan is also reaching out to other regions by sponsoring, for example, a seminar on education and protection of cultural heritage in South-Eastern Europe, held in March 2001, which aimed at seeking measures to achieve harmony among ethnic groups through education and the protection of the cultural heritage of that region. In addition, the Government has launched a dialogue among civilizations with the world of Islam. One of its key activities is the building of a network of academics and think tanks in Japan and Islamic countries that will seek to enhance mutual understanding through the exchange of personnel.

9. The United Nations has also been actively involved in promoting dialogue among civilizations. UNESCO, a key agency in promoting the dialogue, has carried out a broad range of activities in cooperation with Member States and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. Major events sponsored by UNESCO include the International Congress on Interreligious Dialogue, held in Tashkent from 14 to 16 September 2000 in the framework of the UNESCO projects entitled "spiritual convergence and intercultural dialogue" and "East-West intercultural dialogue in Central Asia", and the International Conference on Dialogue among Civilizations, held in Vilnius from 23 to 26 April 2001 under the auspices of the Presidents of Lithuania and Poland and the Director-General of UNESCO.

10. The Conference brought together political leaders, decision makers, scholars and artists from more than 20 countries and 4 continents for an exchange of views and experiences to help find better

ways of building mutual understanding among all peoples based on common concepts of tolerance, solidarity and cooperation. Issues ranged from "plural identities and common values" to "globalization and cultural diversity", "otherness" and "trade, science and cultural exchange". Its outcome was the Vilnius Declaration (A/56/87, annex).

11. The United Nations University also organized a series of workshops, conferences and other events, including an essay contest for children, entitled "Dialogue Beyond Borders". Reflecting the global perspective of the University, the conferences and workshops brought together persons from diverse cultural backgrounds for in-depth discussions aimed at developing a better understanding of what is necessary to realize a meaningful dialogue among civilizations. Of note was a series of workshops to facilitate in-depth discussions on cross-cutting issues in preparation for the International Conference on the Dialogue of Civilizations. These included workshops on themes such as the contributions of science, the media and communications, education, ethics and leadership.

12. The International Conference on the Dialogue of Civilizations was held from 31 July to 3 August 2001 in Tokyo and Kyoto. Drawing on speakers from 23 countries, the Conference explored a number of issues, including lessons from history, multicultural society and cultural transformation, perspectives from Asia, universality versus particularity and the political aspects of the dialogue among civilizations.

13. The conferences and activities looked at means of facilitating dialogue and suggested that, in addition to face-to-face encounters, traditional and new media along with multicultural education could be vital in promoting dialogue. Dialogue can be strengthened if we take advantage of science as a medium through which we discuss and debate and if we focus a substantial part of our efforts on youth. Because of its shared body of knowledge and a common understanding at the technical level, science provides a forum for the exchange of information based on shared goals and interests. There is no doubt that significant differences exist in attitudes to and usage of modern science. If we ensure that the diversity of values and beliefs is also respected, science can be a useful tool for dialogue even when it has been discouraged or denied at the political level.

14. What are the prospects for future dialogue? According to the results of these conferences and activities, the prospects are positive if we fully understand that cultural and religious diversity is a source of strength, not a cause for division and confrontation. The prospects for dialogue will be even better if we understand that the goal of dialogue is not to impose one's viewpoints or even to reach consensus. Dialogue is possible if we accept that we live in a diverse world but share the same values of tolerance and freedom, a world that respects universal human rights. The results of our interaction will be successful if we engage in respectful dialogue, where we do not pass judgement on other cultural norms before examining our own. We can draw lessons from history to see how and why some inter- or cross-civilizational exchanges have been successful and others have not. We can also identify best practices from contemporary experiences. Most importantly, Governments have to exercise the necessary political will to ensure an ongoing dialogue among various groups in society that it is carried out at all levels, from local and national to regional and international, involving all who are traditionally under-represented in political decision-making, especially women and youth.

15. The conferences and activities have also shown that the United Nations remains the natural home of dialogue among civilizations; the forum where such dialogue can flourish and bear fruit in every field of human endeavour. Without this dialogue taking place every day among all nations — within and between civilizations, cultures and groups — no peace can be lasting and no prosperity can be secure.

16. One of the important topics for the ongoing dialogue among nations is globalization. Understanding the constant interaction between the global and the local in all spheres of contemporary life, we all must ensure that the benefits of globalization are more equally distributed so that the injustices that are so often linked to the process are not seen to be affecting only certain groups of people. It is also critical that globalization not reflect the triumph or victory of one ideology or cultural or economic system over another. Indeed, it is important that cultural diversity be preserved in the dynamic interaction among cultures in the process of globalization.

17. Dialogue among civilizations is essential if we are to be successful in achieving one of the main objectives of the mission of the United Nations, that is,

to prevent conflicts. By creating understanding and mutual respect, we can reduce misunderstanding and mistrust and put in place the basis for non-violent resolution of conflicts. Dialogue is also important to the other half of our mission — promoting development. By sharing experiences and jointly seeking solutions, we can solve current and future economic and social problems that affect us all.

III. Why dialogue? Why now?

18. A final report on this question was to be submitted at this stage. Yet how the present report can be called final may be hard to imagine. The events of this year may have drawn the attention of many to the necessity, indeed the imperative, for a dialogue among civilizations.

19. The Group of Eminent Persons appointed to explore these themes has completed its work and has presented me with the aforementioned book. While the text is not a United Nations document per se, it provides an opportunity to reflect on a number of changes that seem to be occurring in the international community. It provides no recommendations, but rather some observations about new trends that may be emerging in the international system. Those trends may be nurtured or may be destroyed. That is up to each of us. This is all the more true in the aftermath of the 11 September terrorist attacks, which represented the worst of humanity, whereas the dialogue seeks to enable and promote the best in humanity. A dialogue among civilizations is not only a necessary answer to terrorism — it is in many ways its nemesis. Where terrorism seeks to divide humanity, the dialogue aims to unite us; where terrorism is based on an exclusionary, belligerent view of the world, the dialogue seeks to promote inclusion and acceptance of the notion that the possession of truth does not belong to any one group alone. Where terrorism seeks to make our diversity the source of conflict, the dialogue can help make that same diversity the foundation for betterment and growth.

20. *Crossing the Divide* contains a provocative stimulus to go beyond the limits of what many of us have imagined so far. It is my hope that the book will help form the basis for further progress in the direction of dialogue — both among and within Member States. Dialogue does not mean appeasement of the arrogance of violence or the arrogance of might. It is open to all and should be based on the fundamental principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. These already represent the common denominator of values we all share, regardless of colour or creed, and should give all people faith in the ability of the dialogue among civilizations to become a means to lessen the fear of diversity and serve as a tool in the ongoing struggle against terrorism. It may be a soft tool of diplomacy but, in the long term, it can prevail.

Annex I

Contributors to *Crossing the Divide: Dialogue among Civilizations*

Crossing the Divide: Dialogue among Civilizations **(South Orange, NJ: Seton Hall University School of Diplomacy and International Relations, 2001)**

A. Kamal Aboulmagd

Lourdes Arizpe

Hanan Ashrawi

Ruth Cardoso

Jacques Delors

Leslie Gelb

Nadine Gordimer

Prince El Hassan bin Talal

Sergey Kapitza

Hayao Kawai

Tommy Koh

Hans Küng

Graça Machel

Amartya Sen

Song Jian

Dick Spring

Tu Weiming

Richard von Weizsäcker

Javad Zarif

Giandomenico Picco, Personal Representative of the Secretary-General for the United Nations Year of Dialogue among Civilizations

Annex II

Reports reviewed in response to General Assembly resolutions on the International Year of Dialogue among Civilizations

A note verbale was sent by the United Nations Secretariat to permanent missions to the United Nations on 1 August 2001 referring to General Assembly resolutions 53/22, 54/113 and 55/23, entitled "United Nations Year of the Dialogue among Civilizations".

Thus far, the following permanent missions have submitted their reports: Austria, Germany, Finland, Japan, the Philippines and Portugal.

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Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations: cooperation between the United Nations and the Council of Europe; cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

Human rights questions: comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action

Letter dated 22 October 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Croatia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to transmit herewith the Dubrovnik Conclusions of the International Conference on Human Rights and Democratization which was recently convened in Dubrovnik, Croatia, from 8 to 10 October 2001. The Dubrovnik Conclusions were adopted by representatives of Governments in Europe, Central Asia and the Caucasus, together with representatives of the United Nations system, the European Union, the Council of Europe, the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and national human rights institutions (see annex).

I would be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda items 21 (c) and (i) and 119 (d).

(*Signed*) Ivan **Šimonović**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

01-61966 (E) 071101

Annex to the letter dated 22 October 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Croatia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Dubrovnik Conclusions

Representatives of Governments in Europe, Central Asia and the Caucasus participating, together with representatives of the United Nations system, the European Union, the Council of Europe and the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, national human rights institutions as well as members of civil society attending as observers, in the International Conference on Human Rights and Democratization, held at Dubrovnik, Croatia, from 8 to 10 October 2001:

I. Preamble:

Reaffirming the universality, indivisibility, interdependence and inter-relation of all human rights — civil and political, and economic, social, and cultural rights, including the right to development,

Reaffirming that the observance and full exercise of human rights are the foundation of freedom, justice and peace,

Calling on all countries to sign and ratify core human rights instruments, such as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Convention on the Rights of the Child as well as their optional protocols,

Recalling the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, which identified steps whereby States would improve the promotion and protection of human rights, the results of the World Conference against Racism in Durban as well as other relevant world conferences,

Recognizing the importance of the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and other human rights regional instruments elaborated within the Council of Europe, such as the European Social Charter,

Recognize the importance of the Helsinki Final Act and the full corpus of subsequent Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe human dimension commitments,

Recalling resolution 2000/47 of the Commission on Human Rights and resolution 55/96 of the General Assembly on promoting and consolidating democracy,

Stressing the rule of law and democracy as fundamental values that are essential to the protection and promotion of human rights and reaffirming that pluralistic democracies based on the rule of law and respect for human rights are a component of and a prerequisite for comprehensive security,

Recognizing the fundamental importance of human rights, democracy and the rule of law for economic development,

Reaffirming that democracy and human rights are universal values not dependent on any particular religious beliefs or ethnic heritage,

Recognizing the importance of the role of non-governmental organizations and other actors of the civil society in the promotion and protection of human rights and, that democracy has as its foundation respect for the human person and the rule of law,

Recognizing that diversity coexists with common and shared values and goals in such a vast region and that freedom, justice, democracy, gender equality, development and security are based on guaranteed equality before the law for all persons,

Recognizing the importance of the effective protection and promotion of the rights of persons belonging to minorities at national and international level through instruments such as the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities as well as recognize the importance of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious or Linguistic Minorities,

Recognizing the importance and contribution of national action plans for the promotion and protection of human rights and of national human rights institutions in the region as recommended by the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,

Mindful of the importance of human rights education as an effective strategy for the prevention of human rights violations and for creating a culture of peace, tolerance and human rights in this region,

Recognizing the importance of regional cooperation and regional approaches in the field of human rights, including the exchanging of experiences for the strengthening of national human rights capacities for the promotion and protection of human rights,

Acknowledging the fundamental role of the regional organizations — the Council of Europe, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the European Union, and regional and country programmes of such United Nations system agencies as the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations Development Fund for Women — in Europe, Central Asia and the Caucasus,

II. Operative text

Express appreciation to the Government of Croatia for hosting this International Conference on Human Rights and Democratization in Europe, Central Asia and the Caucasus; to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the European Commission for their role in the organization and the conduct of the Conference; and to the Council of Europe and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe for their contribution to the Conference;

Commend the discussions held during the Conference on:

- Democratization and the development of the civil society for the promotion and protection of human rights;

- Multiculturalism, tolerance and the protection of minorities for the full enjoyment of human rights;
- National plans of action, independent national human rights institutions and human rights education for the promotion and protection of human rights and the strengthening of national human rights capacities; and
- Multilateral regional cooperation for the promotion and the protection of human rights;

Reaffirm our commitments contained in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action with respect to Europe, Central Asia and the Caucasus, and underline in particular the fundamental role of democracy and the development of civil society for the promotion and the protection of human rights in the region;

Renew our commitment to democracy as the only legitimate form of Government in the region and pledge to strengthen the rule of law and enhance good governance as an important element in the promotion and protection of human rights;

Affirm that effective and meaningful public participation of civil society, including international and national non-governmental organizations and the private sector, is an essential component of successful and sustainable social and economic development and an important element for the promotion of human rights;

Recognize the important contribution of human rights defenders in consolidating democracy, the rule of law and in the promotion and protection of human rights and support the efforts and activities of the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General on Human Rights Defenders;

Recognize that the principles of equality before the law and non-discrimination are at the heart of human rights and reiterate the obligation to combat discrimination in accordance with international and regional human rights instruments;

Confirm the determination to ensure equal rights of women and men, and to promote equal participation of women and men in political, economic, social and cultural life as well as to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and a policy of mainstreaming a gender perspective in all policies and programmes;

Stress the crucial importance of combating all forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, and recall the significant role the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance can play in this respect and, express support to the process of European follow-up to the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance to be initiated in the framework of the Council of Europe;

Acknowledge the contribution of democracy and human rights to comprehensive security in Europe, Central Asia and the Caucasus and therefore integrate human rights and the rule of law as a regular component in peacekeeping and peace-building operations;

Recall that the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action emphasized that the acts, methods and practices of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations are activities aimed at the destruction of human rights, fundamental freedoms and democracy, and by prompting that the international community should take the necessary steps to prevent and combat terrorism;

Express condemnation at the 11 September 2001 events which constituted a crime against humanity and call upon all States to implement the relevant United Nations Security Council resolution and to maintain open pluralistic societies and to ensure respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in the legitimate fight against terrorism;

Recognize the particular plight of refugees and internally displaced persons in the region, and reaffirm the importance of the rights of refugees to seek and enjoy asylum from persecution in other countries and their right to return to their homes in dignity and security and call upon all States to implement the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the United Nations Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement in their domestic system;

Reiterate our firm conviction that torture is unacceptable under any circumstances and commit to intensify our efforts to create a torture-free region in Europe, Central Asia and the Caucasus and call upon States to ratify the United Nations Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the Council of Europe Convention for the Prevention of Torture and incorporate into their national legislation and practices all steps necessary to achieve this goal;

Reiterate our commitment to combat trafficking in persons, particularly for sexual exploitation and undertake to ratify the Protocol to the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. Affirm our commitment to both drawing up and implementing national plans of action, ensuring that human rights considerations shall be at the core of an integrated strategy to combat the problem;

Welcome the commitment by the European Union and the Council of Europe to secure the universal abolition of the death penalty;

Affirm our determination to protect and promote the rights of the child and to fully implement the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child; to combat all forms of violence, discrimination or exploitation, such as the sale of children, child pornography, child prostitution, child soldiers and war-affected children and to implement the Berlin Commitment approved by the May 2001 Conference on Children in Europe and Central Asia;

Acknowledge the positive aspects of cultural diversity and reaffirm the commitment to respect multiculturalism while assuring our commitment to human rights through, inter alia, the promotion of tolerance, openness and human rights education;

Recognize that the effective protection and promotion of the rights of persons belonging to minorities is a fundamental part of the promotion and protection of human rights within democratic societies and therefore further consolidation and development of minority protection mechanisms at the global, regional and subregional levels is desirable;

Recognize the importance of developing and strengthening national capacities for the promotion and protection of human rights, such as independent national human rights institutions, including non-judicial mechanisms for the protection of human rights and in accordance with national conditions and benefiting from regional cooperation and the sharing of experiences;

Recognize the desirability of developing and implementing national human rights plans of action as well as human rights education plans of action, in accordance with their national priorities and through a process of consultation with national entities, as well as the desirability to follow up on treaty-based obligations and the implementation of recommendations of the international treaty-monitoring bodies and the other mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights;

Recognize the important role of the regional human rights mechanisms and the unique contribution to the promotion and the protection of human rights, the rule of law and fundamental freedoms in Europe, Central Asia and the Caucasus made by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Council of Europe and other regional organizations;

Call upon the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Council of Europe, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the European Union and United Nations regional and country teams to develop more effective cooperation in the promotion and the protection of human rights in the region, and to increase the sharing of experiences and best practices as well as the implementation, where possible, of joint projects;

Encourage the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and regional organizations to take part in the enhancement of partnerships between Governments and civil society for the promotion and protection of human rights;

Welcome the commitment by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to contribute through her technical cooperation programme to the development and strengthening of national capacities for the promotion and protection of human rights in Europe, Central Asia and the Caucasus;

Welcome the call by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights for regular exchange of information to share different national experiences and lessons learned as well as to identify best practices and review progress at the regional, subregional and national levels in relation to, in particular:

- National human rights action plans;
- National human rights institutions;
- Human rights education; and
- Follow-up to recommendations of treaty bodies and mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights;

Encourage the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the European Union, the Council of Europe and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to discuss the modalities of such exchanges; and to enhance their cooperation in the field of human rights and democratization with a view to making activities more effective, avoid duplications and identify opportunities for cooperation.

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Question of Cyprus

Security Council
Fifty-sixth year

Letter dated 2 November 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 2 November 2001, addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Aytuğ Plümer, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex were to be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 62, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Umit **Pamir**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

01-62002 (E) 061101

Annex to the letter dated 2 November 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 16 October 2001 (A/56/476-S/2001/972) addressed to you by the Greek Cypriot representative at the United Nations, which contains allegations of "violations of the airspace of the Republic" and "of the flight information region of Nicosia".

It will be recalled that similar allegations of so-called "airspace and FIR violations" were rejected in our previous communications addressed to you, most recently in my letter dated 1 August 2001 (A/55/1025-S/2001/765). I wish to reiterate that flights within the sovereign airspace of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus take place with the full knowledge and consent of the appropriate authorities of the State, over which the Greek Cypriot administration in South Cyprus has no jurisdiction or any right of say whatsoever. Furthermore, it should be emphasized that allegations of so-called violations of the flight information region or violations of air-traffic regulations are void and groundless under international law. Every precaution is being taken for the safety of navigation of civil air traffic during the activities of Turkish State aircraft within international airspace, within which the civil aviation authority of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus is the only competent authority to provide air-traffic and aeronautical information services.

As stated in my previous letters, such allegations are based on the false claim that the sovereignty of the Greek Cypriot administration extends over the whole island, including the territory of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. This claim of the Greek Cypriot administration does not correspond to the reality in Cyprus, namely, the existence of two independent States, each exercising sovereignty and jurisdiction within their respective territories on the island.

I would like to draw attention, once again, to the fact that while refusing to accept the realities of the island, the Greek Cypriot side is continuing with its hostile activities on the island. The Greek Cypriot administration, in collaboration with Greece, is furthering its military build-up in South Cyprus within the framework of the so-called Joint Military Doctrine. The wide range of sophisticated weaponry displayed at the military parade held by the Greek Cypriot administration on 1 October 2001 shows that the Greek Cypriot side is getting ready for war and is not interested in the peaceful resolution of the Cyprus issue.

The Greek Cypriot daily *Cyprus Mail*, of 2 October 2001, reported that "newly acquired military hardware went on display" at the above-mentioned parade, including T-80, AMX-30B2 and M48A5 tanks, BMP-3s, Cascavel and VAB personnel carriers, as well as MI-26 helicopters on loan from Russia. Another Greek Cypriot daily *Alithia*, of 2 October 2001, reported that French-made 120 mm mortars, MIS-200GD vehicles equipped with 40 mm rocket launchers, newly acquired 203 mm M110-AZ systems, 155 mm M114 Zuzana mobile artillery units and 122 mm BM-21 multi-barrel rocket launchers, as well as TOR-MI anti-aircraft missiles and Exocet missiles, were on display at the parade. The Greek Cypriot daily *Politis*, of the same date, reported that Bell, Gazelle and HIU type helicopters also

took part in the parade. The parade was also attended by the Greek Defence Minister, Akis Tzohatzopoulos.

Despite the fact that the parade revealed the dangerous level the Greek Cypriot militarization has reached, the Greek Cypriot leader, Mr. Glafcos Clerides, as reported in the Greek Cypriot daily *Cyprus Mail*, dated 2 October 2001, provocatively stated that "you have not seen all our weapons systems, but you saw what we wanted to show you." This statement by the Greek Cypriot leader is a clear sign that the Greek Cypriot administration has been and is channelling excessive resources into offensive arms purchases which pose a direct threat to the security of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

Following the above-mentioned provocative parade, the Greek Cypriot administration carried out the annual military manoeuvres code-named "Nikiforos 2001" from 16 to 21 October 2001 in South Cyprus. As reported in the Greek Cypriot daily *Filelefitheros*, dated 20 October 2001, these provocative manoeuvres entailed attack scenarios against the territory of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus with the objective of "recovering occupied territories". Editions of the same newspaper, dated 19, 20 and 22 October 2001, reported that PC-9 aircraft, Huey, MI-26, Bell and Gazelle type helicopters equipped with HOT type anti-tank missiles as well as T-80, AMX-30B2 tanks and Jararaca-type armoured vehicles equipped with Milan missiles were used during the manoeuvres. Editions of the Greek Cypriot newspaper, *Cyprus Weekly*, dated from 19 to 25 October 2001, reported that 10,000 Greek Cypriot national guard troops as well as 20,000 reservists took part in the manoeuvres. Live artillery and mortar fire were used and anti-tank missiles launched from helicopters and tanks during the manoeuvres.

The Greek Cypriot daily *Filelefitheros*, of 21 October 2001, reported that the "Toxotis" military manoeuvres, which take place in conjunction with the "Nikiforos" manoeuvres, with the participation of Greek air force and naval units, was postponed owing to the prevailing circumstances in the area. It has been reported, however, that, in accordance with the decision of Greece and the Greek Cypriot administration, the "Toxotis" manoeuvres will be held at a future date.

It is clear from the above actions that, instead of encouraging the Greek Cypriot administration to concentrate its efforts on reaching a realistic settlement with the Turkish Cypriot side, Greece is assisting the Greek Cypriot militarization efforts within the framework of the Joint Military Doctrine. It was reported in the Greek Cypriot daily *Filelefitheros*, of 29 August 2001, that the construction of the naval base at Zygi in South Cyprus has been accelerated and also that the Greek Cypriot navy would be bolstered by the introduction of new weapon systems. According to the same news item, the Greek Cypriot Defence Minister, Mr. Hasikos, stated that the base would be completed very shortly and would meet the requirements of the Greek Cypriot National Guard. Furthermore, the same newspaper, in its edition of 23 September 2001, reported that the Greek Hellas satellite system will be utilized, within the framework of the Joint Military Doctrine, to serve the military telecommunications needs of both Greece and the Greek Cypriot administration.

In view of the above, it is clear that the Greek Cypriot administration is not sincere about reaching a negotiated settlement in Cyprus. On behalf of the Government of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, I strongly protest the hostile military preparations of the Greek Cypriot side and call upon the

international community to urge the Greek Cypriot administration to abandon its escalatory policies and to stop the rearmament campaign. This would indeed help create the necessary environment for reconciliation between the two States on the island.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 62, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Aytuğ **Plümer**
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus